



2096 Red Arrow Trail  
Madison, WI 53711  
Telephone (608) 275-6740  
FAX (608) 275-6756

### Sensory Integration Support Permission

Reach Dane’s social/emotional consultants include Occupational Therapists focusing on sensory integration issues. This offers children who have very high levels of activity the opportunity to find additional strategies to be successful in the classroom. Some children find it very helpful to improve body awareness to use the vests described below. Together with the consultant(s), your child’s teacher would like to use one of these vests with your child.

*Teacher/consultant check one:*

\_\_\_ **The Bear Hug** (description from Southpaw Enterprises):

The Bear Hug, sometimes called a Hug vest, gives children the sensation of a big hug using deep pressure. The vest can be used for calming to help oversensitive or over-aroused children. The Bear Hug fits snugly next to the body and does not shift as the child moves and plays. It should be worn over at least one layer of clothing. Each vest is made of neoprene and consists of a body wrap with adjustable shoulder straps. It is cold water washable. The Bear Hug should be worn for about 20 minutes, as tolerated, and off for at least an hour. It should not be worn during strenuous physical activity (such as on the playground).

\_\_\_ **Weighted Vest** (description from Southpaw Enterprises)

The weighted vest provides input to the muscles and joints of a child’s upper body. A weighted vest can provide a calming effect as well as increased body awareness. They are easily opened using a zipper in the front. A weighted vest should be worn over clothing. The weighted vest should be worn for a period of 20 minutes, as tolerated, and at least 1-2 hours off. It should not be worn during strenuous activity (such as on the playground).

I, \_\_\_\_\_ authorize Reach Dane’s teacher to use the vest identified above with my child \_\_\_\_\_. I understand the teacher will use the vest as described above, and he/she will regularly involve me in discussion on how this support is working.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

The social/emotional consultants Reach Dane works with are from:  
Imagine a Child’s Capacity  
14 Ellis Potter Court, suite 200 Madison, WI 53711  
608-204-6242 608-204-6249 Fax  
www.icc-wi.org

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